

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-13 /070 W

-----092115Z 101887 /64

P R 090636Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3751

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3802

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE DIALOGUE COUNTINUES

REF: SEOUL 3691

1. ALTHOUGH FURTHER FORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOT YET SCHEDULED, SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE IS CONTINUING AND CONTACTS ARE TAKING PLACE AMONG KEY INDIVIDUALS FROM EACH SIDE.

2. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, KCIA DIRECTOR KIM MET WITH CARDINAL KIM RECENTLY. REPORTEDLY, THE CARDINAL ASSURED THE KCIA DIRECTOR THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAD NO INTENTION OF USING THE DIALOGUE TO WORK AGAINST ROKG IN EFFORTS TO UNSEAT PRESIDENT PARK. KNCC SECGENERAL KIM KWAN-SUK INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT KIM AND HIS WIFE HAD HAD LUNCH WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF KCIA AND THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED STATUS OF KIM'S SON (WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH HANGKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY INCIDENT) AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY'S ATTITUDES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. MEETINGS ALSO TAKING PLACE AT "SECRETARY" LEVEL.

3. WHILE THE INCIDENTS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE ENCOURAGING,
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CERTAIN OTHER EVENTS SCHEDULED IN NEAR FUTURE MAY WORK TO UNDERMINE SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE. KNCC HAS TENTATIVE PLANS FOR 5,000 PERSON INDOOR RALLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK TO PROTEST PLANS FOR US TROOP WITHDRAWAL. REPORTEDLY, ROKG HAS BEEN TRYING TO DISCOURAGE SUCH A RALLY AS BEING CONTRARY TO ITS EFFORTS TO DECREASE THE KOREAN PUBLIC'S PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE ON PRESENCE OF US FORCES. IN ADDITION, KNCC

PLANNING CONFERENCE OF VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS THIS WEEK
TO FORM BASIS FOR KNCC-STATE DIALOGUE AS BISHOPS
CONFERENCE HAD DONE FOR CATHOLIC TALKS WITH ROKG. IT IS
PROBABLE THAT LARGER NUMBER OF CONFEREES (PERHAPS 60)
ATTENDING KNCC STRATEGY MEETING AND DIVERSITY OF THEIR
BACKGROUNDS WILL PRODUCE A MORE AGGRESSIVE PROTESTANT
STANCE THAN COMPARABLE CATHOLIC POSITION.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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